

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A connector shell for a multiple wire cable assembly having multiple ground conductors and signal conductors, the connector shell comprising:
 - a housing having a ground potential,
 - a multitude of contact elements arranged in a longitudinal array, the contact elements being provided for making direct electrical contact to contact elements of a mating connector and comprising:
 - (i) grounding contact elements for connecting to the ground conductors of cables of the multiple wire cable assembly and
 - (ii) signal contact elements for connecting to the signal conductors of the cables of multiple wire cable assembly,
 - a longitudinal grounding plate extending along and in the longitudinal direction of the array of the contact elements, the grounding plate having two lateral edges at least one of which is provided for electrical connection to the ground potential of the housing, and
 - wherein the grounding plate comprises throughholes having the grounding contact elements extending therethrough, ~~and~~
 - ~~wherein the grounding contact elements frictionally engage the grounding plate within the throughholes and the grounding contact element connects directly to the ground conductors of the cables or directly to the terminal connector of the cables.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein the grounding plate has at least one cut-out section having the signal contact elements extending therethrough without contacting the grounding plate.
3. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein the grounding plate has several cut-out sections and wherein each of the cut-out sections has at least one signal contact element extending therethrough without contacting the grounding plate.

4. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 3, wherein the cut-out sections are designed as throughholes in the grounding plate and wherein each of these throughholes has a signal contact element extending therethrough with the signal contact element being electrically insulated from an edge of the respective throughhole.
5. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 2, wherein the signal contact elements are spaced apart from an edge of a cut-out section or throughhole, respectively.
6. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal array of the contact elements comprises at least one row of grounding contact elements and at least one row of signal contact elements, the rows of grounding and signal contact elements being arranged adjacent to each other.
7. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 6, wherein one of the signal contact element rows or the at least one signal contact element row is arranged opposite to the grounded longitudinal edge of the grounding plate and wherein the grounding plate comprises a cut-out section having extending therethrough the signal contact elements of the signal contact element row opposite to the grounded lateral edge extend.
8. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 5, wherein the contact element array comprises two grounding contact element rows and two signal contact element rows, the two signal contact element rows being arranged adjacent to each other and between the two grounding contact element rows, and wherein the grounding plate comprises several cut-out portions through which at least one signal contact element extends.
9. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 8, wherein the grounding plate comprises a frame defining the longitudinal edges and transverse edges surrounding a cut-out section having the signal contact elements extending therethrough.
10. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein the grounding contact elements are frictionally received in the respective throughholes of the grounding plate

for making mechanical and electrical contact with the grounding plate within the respective throughholes.

11. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein at least the grounding contact elements comprise grounding pins.

12. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 11, wherein the grounding pins are designed as compliant pins.

13. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein the grounding plate comprises an electrically conductive layer.

14. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 13, wherein the electrically conductive layer extends into the throughholes receiving the grounding pins .

15. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 13, wherein the grounding plate is made from electrically conductive material, in particular metallic material.

16. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a first half and a second half, at least the first housing half comprising an electrically conductive material, and wherein the grounding plate along its grounded longitudinal edge mechanically and electrically contacts the first half.

17. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, further comprising a socket connector having a plurality of contact elements wherein each contact element comprises a contact pin and a socket for receiving a contact pin of a mating connector.

18. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein the individual cables of the multiple wire cable assembly comprise coaxial cables or twinaxial cables.

19. (Previously Presented) The connector shell according to claim 1, wherein the contact elements are provided for receiving terminal connectors having a housing of electrically conductive material, at least one signal contact element arranged within the housing and

electrically insulated relatively to the housing and electrically connected to a signal element of the array of contact elements and at least one ground contact element arranged within the housing as well as electrically connected thereto and electrically insulated relatively to the signal contact element of the housing and electrically connected to a grounding contact element of the array of contact elements.